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Charles E. Shea High School Team and Exeter- West Greenwich High School Team take top awards in the respective categories at the NK Chamber WindWinRI 3rd Annual RI Regional Wind Turbine Competition!

North Kingstown, RI- The North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce’s WindWinRI, offshore wind career training pathway system, continues to support Rhode Island in developing a trained workforce for both youth and adults through a RealJobsRI grant. The program hosted their third annual regional Rhode Island High School Wind Turbine Competition with nationally recognized KidWind on April 29th at the Community College of Rhode Island Knight Campus in Warwick.

Kristin Urbach, Executive Director of the NK Chamber and WindWinRI, provided opening remarks followed by a welcome from Dr. Rosemary Costigan, Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island’s Knight Campus in Warwick, Rhode Island. Keynote remarks were provided by Shannon W. Gilkey, Ed.D., Rhode Island Commissioner of Postsecondary Education.

“WindWinRI is preparing the next generation for work by bringing together higher education K-12, and employers to help students understand this industry and all its potential. Early exposure to career and industry options improves post-secondary enrollment and degree completion”- said Dr. Gilkey.

This year’s competition included two divisions: the KidWind Division and the Advanced Division. This expanded on the competition piloted in Rhode Island last year. All teams used Whitebox simulation software to design, 3D print, and test turbine blades. Those entering the KidWind Division will be using a KidWind generator whereas those in the Advanced Division can use a home-built generator or a purchased generator.

The Charles E. Shea High School Team led by educator Verda Jones in Pawtucket, Rhode Island placed first in the and Warwick Area Career and Technical Center led by educator Michael Kugler placed second in the Advanced competition. The Exeter West Greenwich Team 5 led by educator Amy Biagioni placed first and their Team 3 placed second in the KidWind Division.

Of the four teams that placed in the competition, the Charles E. Shea High School team plans to compete at the KidWind National Competition on May 15th in Boulder, Colorado. The NK Chamber is pleased to announce that they secured funding from sponsors, Orsted and TPI Composites, for the Charles E. Shea High School Team to attend the national competition.

For more information about the WindWinRI Offshore Wind Career Pathway Training System, please visit www.windwinri.com.

The North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce is one of Rhode Island’s leading business membership and trade organizations located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island that includes the Quonset Business Park that employs 13,000 people within 200 businesses. Quonset, the home to Port of Davisville, has served as the staging, storage, and assembly area for wind turbine equipment.

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